

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/960,345

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A rubber-based composite material comprising

a non-woven fabric;

a coating of a metal or metallic compound reactable with sulfur, the coating being formed on [[a]] at least one surface of filaments constituting the non-woven fabric by a physical vapor deposition (PVD) method or a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) method; and

a rubber that adheres to the coating and that covers the non-woven fabric.